

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2026 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Ward, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Hartigan, Keary, O'Donoghue and Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Housing (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. K. Murphy), Director of Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Ms. P. Liddy), Executive Architect, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Mr. S. Farrell), Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Ms. O. Downes), N/M20 Project Coordinator, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. J. Howard), Senior Engineer, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. A. Finn), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 13th January, 2026.

Councillor Keary referred to Item 5 in the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 13th January, 2026 regarding a workshop that was to be convened with Members in February in relation to the Bank of Ireland premises in Rathkeale and asked if any update had been received in relation to this request. The Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up with Karen Burke, Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development and revert.

Councillor Keary also referred to Item 5 in the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 13th January, 2026 regarding a request for extra funding be sought to maintain the local and regional roads around Adare due to the construction of the Adare Bypass. Councillor Collins added she had made numerous complaints in relation to stone dropping from trucks from the Adare Bypass travelling on the roads around Adare and asked that the roads be inspected on a weekly basis. The Director, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm advised they are currently engaging with Traffic Infrastructure Ireland on this issue and will revert on the matter in due course.

Councillor O'Donoghue referred to Item 5 in the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 13th January, 2026 also regarding a request for a list of all Council owned vacant and derelict properties in Rathkeale, he noted that he received the list under Correspondence, however, he had also asked for the length of time each building is in Council ownership

and what their proposed future use would be to be included in this report. He requested that the further information be available for the next Municipal District Meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
And Resolved:

“That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed”.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

No such interest was declared.

It was agreed by Members Items 4 and 11 on the Agenda would be taken at this stage of the Meeting.

4. Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm Directorate

Croom Square Project

The Executive Architect, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm gave Members a presentation on the proposed revitalisation of the former Post Office building and Town Square project in Croom. He advised funding of €50,000 for consultancy has been approved from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme with further funding applications to be applied for when available adding works will be carried out with prior consultation with Croom Community Development Association.

The Executive Architect, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm outlined the concept and possible uses for the completed project which includes the refurbishment of the former Post Office into a potential tourist office and tea room. The Town Square will include a paved outdoor space with seating and planting to be used for public gatherings, events and performances and will include a sculpture dedicated to the Maigue Poets. An extension to the rear of the Post Office will be a large multipurpose space for a variety of community uses.

In Q1 2026 cleaning and painting works have taken place on the former Post Office building as well as the preparation of design options. Public consultation for input and

feedback, development of preferred design and submission of Part 8 Planning Application will take place in Q2 2026.

Discussion ensued, the overall project was welcomed by Members with the following concerns raised:

- Councillor O'Donoghue queried the cost of the project. He also added safety at that junction with Main Street is paramount and must be taken into consideration.
- Councillor Teskey stated the footpaths in Croom are poor quality and need to be upgraded.
- Councillor Collins requested if the removed parking spaces at this location would be reassigned elsewhere in the town. She also stated a connectivity to the Rathkeale Greenway be factored in for the town as part of the project.
- Councillor Keary requested a formal plan for Croom be presented to Members before the Part VIII is completed for the location and also requested the building should be mirrored to look complete and repurposed for social housing accommodation.

The Director of Housing informed Members grant funding has been secured for the initial design and phase one of the project adding Karen Burke, Town Centre First Officer will eventually be carrying out a Town Centre First plan for Croom, however, as the building is in a prominent location in the town painting had to be carried out to improve the look of the building for the present time. He added there is adequate parking within the town centre currently and the project has been welcomed by the local population in Croom. The Director of Housing further added the building would be difficult to demolish and it would be preferred to encourage tourism back into the town by turning it into a tourist office and tea room.

The Executive Architect, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm concluded the design would be carried out within the organisation rather than externally and he told Members he would take all comments and concerns outlined during the course of the meeting into account and revert when a final design is complete.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting to receive an update on the Croom Distributor road and for any other road improvements being considered for the immediate Croom area in the next ten years. I ask that all recent traffic surveys be available along with a representative from the NM20 road design team.

Councillor O'Donoghue advised the meeting he was proposing this motion due to concerns among the local population of Croom regarding traffic congestion at the T

junction on main Street and how this congestion could be alleviated as a ring road for the town is not possible. Councillor O'Donoghue requested a distributor road now be considered for the town and be installed prior to the construction of the N/M20 motorway. Councillor O'Donoghue further requested traffic surveys be carried out in the town to record the high volume of traffic including lorries and buses entering the town on a daily basis.

The N/M20 Project Coordinator, Mid West National Road Design Office circulated a list of traffic surveys carried out over the last five to six years for Croom advising more are due to be carried out this year and added there is a permanent traffic counter north of Croom currently in operation. He further advised that all traffic surveys can be found on the website www.corklimerick.ie and added the N/M20 project is coming to the end of Phase 3 stage and statutory documents are being finalised with a business case to go to Government which will determine the start date of the project with the hope it will be approved by Q4 2026.

Councillor O'Donoghue informed the N/M20 Project Coordinator, Mid West National Road Design Office that the main street in Croom needs to be a one way system adding a traffic management plan needs to be in place before any plan is presented to Government. Councillor Keary queried the cost of the distributor road project. The Director, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm advised the project would cost in the region of €5 million to €10 million adding she would liaise with the Department of Transport and revert on the matter when an update becomes available.

Reply: While there is currently no funding in place to complete the final phase of the Croom Distributor Road to connect the scheme to the R516 Bruff Road. Should such funding be provided, Limerick City & County Council would need to prepare a final design and tender process prior to proceeding to construction.

The only other road improvement project of significance in the area is the N\M20 Cork to Limerick Project.

3. Disposal of Land

(a) Circulated, report of the Head of Property Services dated 30th January, 2026 setting out proposals for the disposal of 0.0135 Acres (0.0054 Hectares) of land at the Lay-By on the Greenway at Castlematrix, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

(b) Circulated, report of the Head of Property Services dated 30th January, 2026 setting out proposals for the disposal of 0.2629 Acres (0.1064 Hectares) of land at Askeaton,

Co. Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

5. District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 10th February, 2026 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Discussion ensued in relation to Active Travel scheme funding and Members expressed disappointment that €18 million is being allocated to City projects while €750,000 is all that's being allocated to the Municipal Districts. Councillor O'Donoghue asked if all proposed active travel schemes for the District would be submitted for funding.

6. Request to receive a presentation from Warmer Homes Ireland

The Meetings Administrator advised she would contact Warmer Homes Ireland to discuss and revert.

7. Request to receive a presentation on the Fair Deal Scheme

It was agreed that a request would be forwarded to Fair Deal Scheme to attend the April Municipal District Meeting.

8. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ward, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €4,000 to Limerick Ladies Football Club.
- €1,500 to St Senan's GAA Club.
- €4,000 to Limerick Men's Football Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Kilcornan Arts Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Keary, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Cappagh Women's Cave.

On the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €1,000 to Kilcornan Craft Club.
- €1,000 to Pallaskenry Ladies Club.
- €2,000 to Roads Maintenance, Rathkeale.
- €4,000 to St. Senan's GAA Club.
- €2,000 to Gerald Griffin Resource Centre.

QUESTIONS

9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Hartigan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update from the Transport Directorate regarding the new but unused bus stop in Pallaskenry Village.

Reply: We will liaise with Bus Eireann on this matter and revert to you in due course.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Hartigan

I will ask at the next Meeting that an update from the Library section be provided including a date for a community information evening on the Bank of Ireland Askeaton and when expressions of interest will be sought to refurbish the current vacant element of the building space approx. 250m².

Reply: The work on the library element of former Bank of Ireland Askeaton East Square is progressing and is on schedule for completion to open in March 2026.

We would propose to meet with the Askeaton Town Team at their next meeting scheduled for March 2026 to provide information and update in relation to the building.

With regard to the spaces in the building not in library use, the question of refurbishment will be informed by the proposed use. This will be assessed following discussion with relevant groups who may wish to apply to use these spaces.

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting for a presentation on what will remain under the control of Limerick City and County Council with regards to water and wastewater services in the District.

The Senior Engineer, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services informed Members staff currently employed by Limerick City and County Council on behalf of Uisce Eireann have to make a decision to transfer to Uisce Eireann or remain with Limerick City and County Council over the next two years. If they opt not to transfer they will be reallocated within Departments of Limerick City and County Council.

Councillor O'Donoghue in proposing this Motion expressed concern regarding the loss of local knowledge from existing Council staff transferring to Uisce Eireann and also the difficulties expressed by Elected Members trying to contact Uisce Eireann on local issues with water and sewerage breakdown in the District.

The Director, Housing added that over the past year Uisce Eireann have been documenting and recording local knowledge from staff in their own systems for locations of pipes and valves etc. He also advised Members can contact Uisce Eireann through their call centre. Councillor Collins stated she has always received an immediate response from Uisce Eireann when contacting them through social media platforms.

Discussion ensued in relation to Members difficulty in contacting various utility companies and Councillor Keary requested for the next meeting contacts for local utility companies such as Uisce Eireann, Eircom, ESB and Bord Gais.

Reply: Limerick City and County Council no longer provides public water or wastewater services. This function has now transferred to Uisce Eireann. The Rural Water Section provides a regulatory, testing and grant administration function to the Private Water Schemes (including Group Schemes) in Limerick.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Hartigan

I will move at the next Meeting that we as the Elected Members of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District receive an update on Askeaton Pool and Leisure every six months so as to be kept informed on the progress that has been made at this leisure facility.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Hartigan felt there was a breakdown in communication between the Operator of Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre and the Askeaton swim club and asked that going forward that all entities would be kept informed of the day to day running's of the swimming pool and hoped that memberships would be kept up as well as regular maintenance to the facility. Councillor

Collins requested that a report be made available to Members from the Operator on a regular basis with a view to being kept informed of how business was progressing at the facility. Councillor Teskey agreed that Members should not be excluded from information in relation to the running of the pool facility. The Meetings Administrator agreed to organise a Private Briefing in six months time with the Operator of Askeaton Swimming Pool and District Members.

Reply: The reopening of Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre in December marked the successful completion of a significant programme of investment and refurbishment, which has restored and future-proofed this important community asset for the people of Askeaton and the wider West Limerick area.

This achievement reflects the strong support of the elected members, the commitment and professionalism of Council staff, and the constructive partnership with Swim Ireland and other stakeholders in establishing operational arrangements for the centre. Together, this collective effort has ensured that the pool and centre is once again providing accessible, safe and modern facilities focused on health, wellbeing and community participation.

With the facility now fully operational, an update to area Councillors mid-year is timely when over 6 months of operations will have accrued and we will be in a position to comment on overall progress at the facility.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Hartigan

I will move at the next Meeting that we as Elected Members request Limerick City and County Council adequately fund the three St. Patricks Day parades that will take place across the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District in 2026.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Hartigan stated all Members had been contacted by local parade committee members for support to cover the cost of running the St. Patricks Day parades. Councillor Hartigan also expressed disappointment with the response from the Executive and hoped the parade committees would be fully supported next year.

Reply: The LCCC Economic and Tourism Development Department gives financial assistance to St. Patrick's Day Parades and St. Patrick's Festivals through two open calls:

- The St. Patrick's County Parades Support and the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme.
 - Two supports available. Town support €1,800. Village support €800.

- The Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2026/2027. This will be open to festivals that take place in March of 2027 and will open for submissions in Q1/Q2 2026. There are three strands to this scheme:
 - S1: Delivery and Programming of Small and Community focused Festivals and Events, Maximum award €5,000;
 - S2: Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large Scale Festivals and Events, Maximum award €30,000;
 - S3: Festival Development and Sustainability, Maximum award €4,500.

The Economic and Tourism Department does not have access to any other funding for St Patricks Day Parades or Festivals in the Municipal Districts.

15. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____